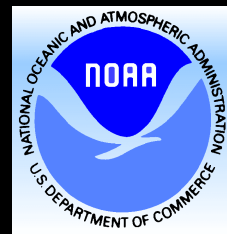




The Spotter's Page



Volume 5, Issue 1

Fall / Winter 2000

Waterspouts: Are they Simply Tornadoes over Water?

While this summer has been fairly quiet severe weather wise across eastern Virginia, the Lower Maryland Eastern Shore and northeastern North Carolina, the weather pattern has been conducive for waterspout development. Waterspouts were observed in the southern Chesapeake Bay and adjacent coastal waters on at least 7 days this summer. Figure 1 shows a waterspout over the Chesapeake

This combination of unseasonable cool air aloft and warm water temperatures is the cause for an above average waterspout development this summer.

Bay taken by a spotter in Mathews County, VA. Waterspouts often occur during the late summer and fall, when the ocean and bay waters are still relatively warm, and colder air from the north is beginning to surge south. The weather pattern this summer was often more typical of fall, with an upper level

Check Your Mailing Label!!

Your new Spotter ID is on the label (see back page for details), as well as your last training date. **Spotters with 5 year or more lapses in training will be removed from our database starting in**



Figure 1: Waterspout that formed in the evening of July 14th off Gwynns Island in Mathews County VA. A spotter for one of the local TV stations captured this phenomena.

New NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter

A new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter has been installed in southern Currituck county North Carolina, near Mamie. For residents of far northeastern North Carolina, or mariners on the Albermarle, Currituck and Pamlico Sounds (and adjacent coastal waters), this is good news. In the past, these areas were covered by the Driver, VA and Cape Hatteras, NC transmitters. However, the quality of reception was not always ideal. Thus the residents of the area petitioned for an additional transmitter to handle northeastern North Carolina. The majority of the fund-

ing for the transmitter came from FEMA, with assistance from Dare county.

The transmitter is mounted on a pre-existing tower at 400 feet elevation, and is transmitting at 300 watts power. The broadcast coverage is approximately a 40 mile radius from the transmitter. Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Washington, Tyrell, Dare and Hyde counties; the Albermarle, Currituck and Pamlico Sounds; and the coastal waters from the Virginia-North Carolina border to Kill Devil Hills, will all benefit from improved NOAA Weather Radio reception (see Figure 3,

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Continued: Waterspouts

trough across the area, and the Bermuda high farther east than normal. This resulted in more frequent cool surges from Southern Canada. The combination of unseasonable cool air aloft and warm water temperatures aided waterspout development this summer.

Waterspouts typically develop during the early and mid afternoon, when surface winds are light and the layer of air just above the water has warmed. This warm surface layer coupled with relatively cool air a few thousand feet up in the atmosphere produces a steep temperature lapse rate (or rapid decrease in temperature with height). This results in an unstable atmosphere, and the warm air immediately above the water begins to rise. The steeper the lapse rate, the faster the surface air rises. As this warmer air rises, it causes this surrounding cooler air to spiral inward, forming an eddy. This eddy continues to develop skyward because warm moist air is lighter than the cooler surrounding air. In addition to the development of an eddy, cumulus clouds also form in the unstable environment. Routinely, as the spiral develops skyward, a funnel cloud develops toward the surface, due to the strong downward motions present in the cumulous cloud. Eventually the eddy will connect with the funnel producing a fully developed waterspout. (See Figure 2)

The typical life span of a waterspout is two to 20 minutes. However, they have been known to persist for more than an hour. Their average movement is between 10 to 15 knots (12 to 17 MPH). The waterspout will dissipate as the amount of warm air entraining into the spout decreases. This may be due to the waterspout moving over a cooler area or because rain falls into the funnel. Waterspouts typically dissipate as they move onshore. However some of the stronger waterspouts may continue for a few miles inland. Damage associated with a waterspout is typically categorized as a weak tornado with winds speeds of 75 mph or less.

By
Diane Innes

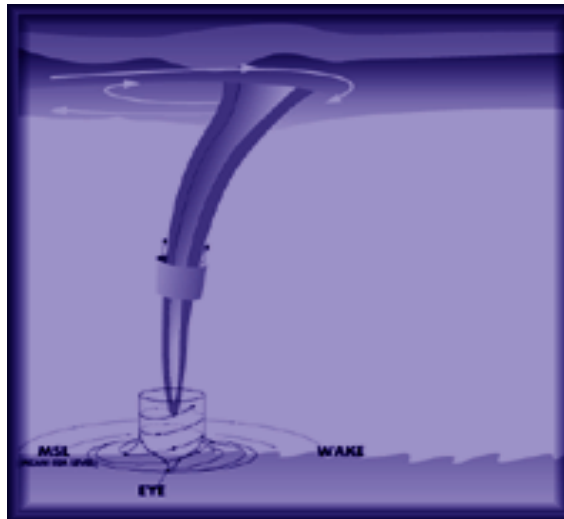


Figure 2:
Diagram of a fully developed waterspout.

Image from:
<http://www.marinewatch.com/cycle.html>

Kudos To Spotters

The purpose of this column is to give recognition to some of the SKYWARN reports and appreciated spotter contributions. Without SKYWARN spotters, the process of warning and alerting the public to threatening weather would be more difficult. Spotters are a valuable asset to the NWS, your local counties, and cities and we at the WFO Wakefield express our thanks for your willingness to be a part of this program.

Numerous people have called this severe weather season with valuable reports. Unfortunately, I will not be able to mention everyone in this article. But, vital information relayed the May 22nd severe weather outbreak deserves special mention. A surface boundary that was draped across North Carolina during the morning hours slowly pushed north into Southern Virginia. At the same time, an upper level system rotated into the area during the afternoon. The two systems combined to create an unstable atmosphere over North Carolina and Virginia. The Storm Prediction Center issued a Severe Thunderstorm Watch at 230 PM for Southeastern Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina. The atmosphere was conducive for

thunderstorms to produce both large hail and severe winds. The first spotter report was received at 4 PM from spotter OMP02, Charles Whitley. He reported that dime size hail was covering the ground in the town of Seaboard in Northampton County, NC. The next report of dime size hail and 50 to 60 mph winds, came from Richard Grimes, ONJ01, in Hallersville, NC in Hertford County. A brief break occurred in the action through the remainder of the afternoon. The storms fired once again shortly after 8 PM across South Central Virginia. At 830 PM, Greg Hopper, MKN01, from Southampton County reported quarter size hail and wind gusts to 50 mph, 4 miles West of Courtland. Another report for the Courtland area, from Jim Bradshaw, spotter ID NMK08, came in around 835 PM. He reported dime size hail. We also received vital information from the HAM network and local Emergency Operation Centers through this event.

As stated before, this list is merely a sample of the excellent reports that you and your fellow spotters have passed along so far this



Letter from The editor

Once again, we had a successful Spring/Summer SKYWARN training session. Thank-you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to attend a class! Thus far this year, we have trained 200+ people, and added 124 new spotters to our program. This brings our total number of spotters to 988. Virginia Beach added the most new spotters, followed closely by Prince Edward County and Newport News. We also added new spotters in areas where few spotters previously existed, such as Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Cumberland Counties! However, we

still have a number of counties with few, if any, spotters (see Table 1). So, if you know of someone who you think would be interested in the SKYWARN program, encourage them to attend a training session. We can never have enough "eyes on the sky." SKYWARN spotter training will resume in the spring. Also, if you have not attended a training session in over 2 years, we recommend that you attend one in 2001. In the upper right corner of your mailing label, you will see the date of the last spotter training session that you attended. If this is blank, then you have

not attended a session in over 4 years. If you would like to host a SKYWARN training session, call Bill Sammler at (757) 899-5732 x223 or e-mail him at william.sammler@noaa.gov.

I would like to WELCOME all our new spotters to the program, and say thank you for volunteering to be a part of such a vital organization to both the National Weather Service and your local area. If you are a new spotter, please refer to the *Good Reports vs. Bad Reports* article (Page 4) for a listing of weather phenomena

(Continued on page 10)

County/ Independent City	Number of New	Number of	County/ Independent	Number of New	Number of Spotters	County/ Independent	Number Of New	Number of
Virginia			Virginia Con't			Virginia Con't		
Accomack	0	16	King and Queen	0	3	Suffolk	0	24
Amelia	1	16	King William	0	2	Surry	0	1
Brunswick	1	4	Lancaster	0	13	Sussex	0	4
Caroline	0	5	Louisa	0	16	Virginia Beach	16	81
Charles City	2	5	Lunenburg	5	11	Westmoreland	0	2
Chesapeake	5	46	Mathews	1	5	Williamsburg	1	8
Chesterfield	5	64	Mecklenburg	10	17	York	4	20
Colonial Heights	0	9	Middlesex	0	1	Maryland		
Cumberland	4	5	New Kent	0	6	Dorchester	0	3
Dinwiddie	0	15	Newport News	14	83	Somerset	0	3
Emporia (City)	0	1	Norfolk	4	22	Wicomico	0	23
Essex	0	1	Northampton	0	2	Worcester	0	4
Fluvanna	0	18	Northumberland	0	2	North Carolina		
Franklin (City)	0	8	Nottoway	0	15	Bertie	0	15
Gloucester	8	46	Petersburg (City)	0	5	Camden	1	4
Goochland	1	7	Poquoson (City)	0	5	Chowan	0	5
Greensville	0	0	Portsmouth (City)	2	18	Currituck	0	3
Hampton	1	26	Powhatan	0	6	Gates	1	9
Hanover	3	20	Prince Edward	14	19	Hertford	0	27
Henrico	9	41	Prince George	2	10	Northampton	1	22
Hopewell (City)	0	5	Richmond (City)	2	42	Pasquotank	3	11
Isle of Wright	2	19	Richmond County	0	0	Perquimans	0	10
James City	1	10	Southampton	0	20			

Table 1: Number of spotters within each county or independent city in Wakefield's area of responsibility. The first column is the number of new spotters added in 2000 and the second column is the total number of spotters. The shaded boxes highlight the counties which additional spotters are desperately needed.



good Severe Weather reports Verses bad reports

As hurricane season draws to an end, winter weather season is on its heels. As with severe weather season, it is important to relay your winter reports to us. When relaying a winter weather report, you should include the following information:

- 1) Your **Spotter ID**.
- 2) **Where** is the event occurring/ occurred?
- 3) The **Time/Duration** of the event.
- 4) **What** is actually happening/ happened?

Examples of good and bad reports:

Good - "Hi, my name is Jill Black, spotter ID is XXXXX. My location is in Farmville in Prince Edward County. Since 9 PM, we have received one quarter of an inch of ice. This all fell as freezing rain and the ice has accumulated on trees and power lines. The temperature has held steady around 30 degrees F through the evening."

Bad - "Hi,, my name is Ed and a it is snowing very hard. (This person did not give a location, time or even an

Reportable Severe Weather Events
1. Tornadoes – Location, movement, and damage; funnel clouds, wall clouds or waterspouts
2. Wind – 50 mph or stronger , wrist size or larger branches broken off trees, power lines down
3. Hail – ANY size
4. Flooding – Rivers or creeks near bankfull or out of banks, water over roads or any coastal flooding.
5. Rainfall – 1 inch or more in an hour.
6. Snow – 1 inch or more per hour; when snow depth is 4 inches or greater.

Table 2: Weather Conditions to report to the NWS.

indication of the snowfall rate, such as an estimated visibility or snowfall accumulation.)

Good - "Hi, this is Alex Shoemaker, spotter ID is XXXXX. I am 5 miles west of Sunbury in Gates County, NC. We have received moderate snow for the past two hours. The visibility is around a half of a mile and since 10 AM we have received 2 inches. The snow is only accumulating on grassy surfaces however.

Bad - "Hello, this is Sally Smith and I have lots of lightning with high winds.

(Reminder, we can also have severe thunderstorms in the winter months. Unfortunately, Sally did not give her location, spotter ID, or estimated wind speed strength. The winds could have blowing at 25 mph , or above the 58 mph severe criteria.)

Hopefully, these examples have given you an idea as to the difference between a good and a bad report. For a specific list of weather to report, refer to table 2. Please, always try to give as much information as possible. If you have any

NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies

KHB37 – 162.55 MHz -
Norfolk/Driver, VA
WXM57 – 162.40 MHz-
Heathsville, VA
KEC92 – 162.475 MHz -
Salisbury, MD
WXX65 - 162.475 MHz -
Richmond, VA
WWG33 - 162.45 MHz -
Margarettsville, NC
WWH26 - 162.425 MHz-
Mamie, NC

Spotter Rainfall Reports Encouraged

Within the last year, NWS Wakefield has started issuing a monthly precipitation summary. This product consists of monthly precipitation totals from various observation sites, co-op stations, and some spotters (thank you), along with a narrative summary of the weather that occurred across the Mid-Atlantic region that month. This product is issued around the middle of the month as a Public Information Statement (WBCPNSAQ), which is posted to our website on the F6/Climate page.

To further enhance the accuracy of the precipitation distribution , we would

like to encourage additional spotters to phone in their monthly rainfall totals at the beginning of the month. In addition, a report of the highest daily precipitation total you received during the month would be useful for statistical purposes.

Finally, we always welcome real-time reports of heavy amounts of precipitation in a short period of time. for example 1 inch in 15 minutes, or 2 inches in an hour, or even 3 to 4 inches in a 3 hour time frame. This will aid in our determination of the flash flooding potential in your area.

By Pat Maloit,



Coop Corner: What is the Cooperative Weather Program

Part 1: What is the Cooperative Weather Program

The Cooperative Weather Observing Program is comprised of over 11,000 VOLUNTEERS nationwide, that take and record daily weather observations. These observations contribute to our National climatic data base, and are the source of data when establishing temperature and rainfall normals or extremes for many locations. This data is used in construction, agriculture, engineering, insurance, and litigation.

Thomas Jefferson first saw the need for a network of observers to record climatic history. By the early 1800s he had established a network with observers in every county in Virginia. Today, the National Weather Service in Wakefield VA supports the cooperative observing program in central and eastern Virginia, northeast North Carolina and the lower Maryland Eastern Shore. Our observers include farmers, retirees, postal workers, and industrial locations such as water treatment plants and police stations. The common elements among all of them are that they are busy people who still find time to contribute to their community. Our goal is to visit each cooperative site at least once a year, or more frequently if unscheduled maintenance is required. For 2000, we are ahead of schedule, and either Susan Funk or Rick Curry have visited most of our

Part 2: Winter Observations

Winter is right around the corner and we should all review snow measurement procedures. Whenever

the temperature approaches freezing and/or freezing or frozen precipitation is forecast you should remove the outer funnel and the inner tube from the 8 inch rain gage. The inner tube is made of plastic and rain freezing in it frequently causes it to break, snow will clog the funnel resulting in poor readings. There are three readings needed for snow:

1. 24hr water equivalent. If the outer can of the rain gage has a representative amount of snow, it can be melted by adding a known amount of warm water. When melted subtract the amount of water added and record to the nearest hundredth of an inch (0.01). If the amount in the can is unrepresentative (due to winds) you can use the outer can to cut a biscuit out of the snow on the ground, this biscuit is then measured as above.

2. 24hr. snow. Find a location where the freshly fallen snow is the east drifted and appears representative then measure the snow depth in inches and tenths. If the snow melted prior to time of measurement make and record an estimate, prefix the entry with an Ae@ You could also use the remarks section to state that it melted. You may find it helpful to use a Asnowboard@ that can be swept off and placed on top of old snow to differ between old and new snowfall.

3. Total Snow Depth. This measures the total snow on the ground. If drifting has occurred, measure several locations (least affected by drifting) and take the average of all readings. This reading is in WHOLE INCHES, enter a T for less than one-half inch.

Standard representative snowfall observations are critical in supporting the National Weather Service mission. The Cooperative Weather Observation is the primary source for statewide snow fall amounts.

Part 3: Administrative Items

Monthly Forms: I would like to thank everyone for their continuing efforts in getting their forms to us during the first five days of each month. When we do call asking that another copy be mailed, this is to ensure your data is forwarded in time to be printed, again thanks for your quick response. We will soon change how your forms are entered in the Nation Climatic Data Centers database, we will be forwarding your B-91s to a contractor for entry. **YOUR PROCEDURES WILL NOT CHANGE** continue to mail the ORIGINAL to the Wakefield office and we will get it to the contractor. If you are running short of envelopes just include a note with next months forms and we will get some in the mail.

Fisher Porter Tapes: If you have a Fisher Porter rain gage please be sure to enter your station name, number, and date/time on or off at both the start and end of your tape. We have had a few occasions where trying to identify the tape took a little extra work. We also ask that you leave 15 to 18 inches of blank tape at the start and end of the roll, this allows the tape to be treaded on the optical reader. If you have any problems with the rain gage please call immediately so that we can minimize lost data.

*By Rick Curry,
Hydrometeorological Techni-*



NWS Wakefield Attends the Virginia State Fair

NWS Wakefield again staffed a booth at the Virginia State Fair (September 21st– October 1st). This is the second consecutive year we participated in the fair, and again we felt that it was a successful effort. We spoke to thousands of people over the 11 day period. Since two hurricanes (Isaac and Joyce) were developing in the Atlantic through the majority of the fair, any hurricane information or forecasts were common questions. Also, thanks to the generosity of AT&T, we had an internet connection. Thus, we were able to download the latest satellite imagery, and National Hurricane Center forecasts.

We also distributed more than 2000 NOAA/Red Cross preparedness brochures on hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, winter storms and thunderstorms. Many weather enthusiasts, teachers, and home school group facilitators appreciated the information packets available. In addition, pre-fair information packets containing NWS information were distributed to schools throughout the Commonwealth. Those wanting additional information not available in a formal publication, were guided to a variety of websites.

Through the course of the fair, people could register for a drawing of a SAME compatible NOAA weather radio. Many people who signed up for the drawing were not aware of the NOAA weather radio program. Thus, this was a good outlet to increase public awareness of NOAA Weather Radio and its programming. The winner was drawn on the last day of the fair. Congratulations to Cathy Ford of Merrifield, VA. We hope she enjoys her new radio.

As stated before, we spoke with thousands of our users. Most of the responses and conversations were positive in nature, and we welcomed the opportunity to talk one on one with the general public. Also, thank-you to all of our spotters who stopped by to say hi. If you did not stop by the booth this year, look for the NWS booth at future fairs. Also, if you have any suggestions to enhance our booth at next year's fair, please let us know.

By
Diane Innes

Local ARES Nets

Location	Time	Freq.	ARES EC
NIGHTLY – South Tidewater ARES Net			
	9 PM	146.97	WB4AXY
SUNDAY			
Franklin	9 PM	147.30	N4UPX/KB4ZII
MONDAY			
Goochland	8 PM	147.09	N4TZE
Hanover	930 PM	145.43	KS4LB
DELMARVA	9 PM	146.82	(general radio net)
York/ Poquoson	8 PM	146.94	Area EC
North Carolina - Tarheel Emergency Net			
	730 PM	145.11	varies
TUESDAY			
New Kent	730 PM	146.715	(inactive)
Newport News	8 PM	147.165	Area EC
Richmond	8 PM	145.11	N4WFR
Chesterfield	9 PM	147.36	KD4GAU
WEDNESDAY			
Williamsburg/ James City	730 PM	146.76	KC4CMR
Hopewell/PG	8 PM	146.94	KD4ACG
ARES EC/AEC	9 PM	146.94	1st Wed of Month
Regional - Tidewater/ eastern North Carolina			
	9 PM – EC varies	145.11/145.41/ 146.94 147.30/147.12/ 146.91	
THURSDAY			
Gloucester/ Middle Peninsula	8pm	145.37	
Hampton	730 PM	145.49	KF4POC
Henrico	830 PM	147.51S	KF4WP
Newport News	730 PM	145.49	Area EC
Rappahannock	930 PM	147.015	N/A
Smithfield	730 PM	147.195	KC4WCH
MISCELLANEOUS			
Newsline/Rain			
Sat/Sun	7 PM	145.41	
Mon/Wed	8 PM	145.41	

*Note: "S" beside the frequency denotes simplex



Continued New NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter

(Continued from page 1)

page 7). Under ideal weather conditions, the broadcast should reach into Chowan county, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, and the coastal waters east of Virginia Beach. The Mamie transmitter will broadcast at 162.425 MHz (channel 2 on most newer NOAA Weather Radio receivers).

Even though the transmitter is located within Wakefield's area of responsibility, programming will originate from the Newport, NC office. Forecasts and observations for northeast North Carolina and the northern Outer Banks will be routinely broadcast. In addition, *immediate* tone activation and broadcast of severe weather warnings will occur for the following counties: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington; and the following marine areas: Albermarle, Currituck and Pamlico Sounds, and the coastal waters from the NC/VA Border to Cape Hatteras.

The transmitter underwent a testing phase through September and October, and is expected to be fully operational sometime in November.

If you have any questions concerning this new transmitter. Please call Jeff Orrock at the Newport NWS office at (252) 223-5122.

By Diane Innes

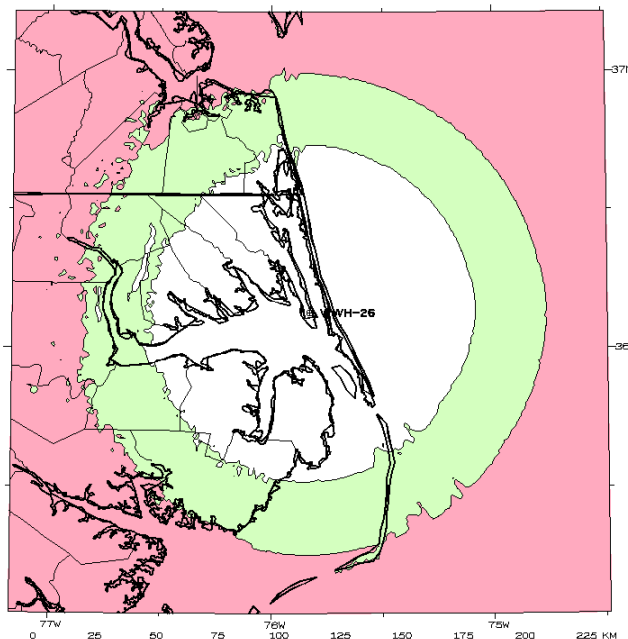


Figure 3 :
Display of the expected coverage area for the Mamie NWR Transmitter. The white area depicts the best coverage area. The second lightest/green shade shows sporadic reception and the darkest/pink shade indicates no reception.

Hellos and Good-byes: More Staffing Changes at Wakefield

Personnel changes continue at WFO Wakefield. During the past few months, we have said goodbye to SOO (Science and Operations Officer) Hugh Cobb, Met Intern Tim Armstrong and Senior Forecaster Jason Hess. In August, Hugh returned to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL as a Satellite Specialist. Hugh has a profound interest in tropical weather, and weather history, especially in the Hampton Roads. So even though we will miss his wealth of knowledge, we know that he is forecasting for his passion. Also in August, Tim Armstrong relocated to the NWS in Wilmington, NC as a general forecaster. Tim was a wonderful asset to the Wakefield office. He was involved with a variety of

computer related programs, including the Wakefield web page, and our office Intranet. We wish Tim the best of luck as he advances his career at Wilmington.

In October, Jason Hess departed for a Senior Forecast position in Jacksonville, FL. Jason was instrumental in NWS Wakefield's transfer to the AWIPS computer system. His skills will be sorely missed, but we share in his joy, as this move will bring him closer to family.

Finally, we welcome John Billet as our new SOO. John comes to us from the Sterling, VA office. John brings 11 years of forecasting experience across Virginia and Maryland. We are excited to add him to our staff.

Have you Moved?

If you have changed your address, will be moving soon, or no longer wish to receive *The Spotter's Page*, please call (757) 899-5732 ext. 223 and let us know. Spotters, you can still participate in the SKYWARN program at your new address. If your new residence is no longer in our area, we will contact the office serving your new locale and let them know that you are available to help!



WARNGEN: A new Generation of Severe Weather Warnings

With the installation of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) workstations, NWS forecasters are now employing the latest technological advances to issue severe weather warnings. The Warning Generator function of AWIPS, called WARNGEN, is now the main tool used to issue National Weather Service severe thunderstorm, tornado and flash flood warnings. WARNGEN software allows forecasters to issue severe weather warning products in a more efficient and timely manner. The new software allows forecasters to designate the type and duration of a warning, establish a storm track, choose optional text bulletins, and then, send the warning information to a text display for final editing and transmission...all with few mouse clicks!

The WARNGEN software package is activated from a Display 2-Dimensional (D2D) graphics display on an AWIPS workstation. Once WARNGEN is activated, forecasters will be presented with a "A Drag Me" to storm icon. The user drags the icon over the storm (or line of storms) of concern on a radar graphic display loop, and WARNGEN automatically determines the projected path of the storm, based on an analysis of environmental steering winds. Affected counties, and towns and cities in the path of the storm are then identified. A dialog box allows forecasters to choose the appropriate warning type and duration, and select various predesignated bullets and call-to-action statements. The "Create Text" button at the bottom of the dialog box reads the warning on the monitor of the text workstation (See Figure 4). The forecaster then performs a final quality control check of the final product, then sends the warning.

WARNGEN has proven to be very efficient in Weather Forecast Office severe weather operations. During a severe weather event, multiple forecasters have access to radar data via the AWIPS workstations, rather than just one forecaster via

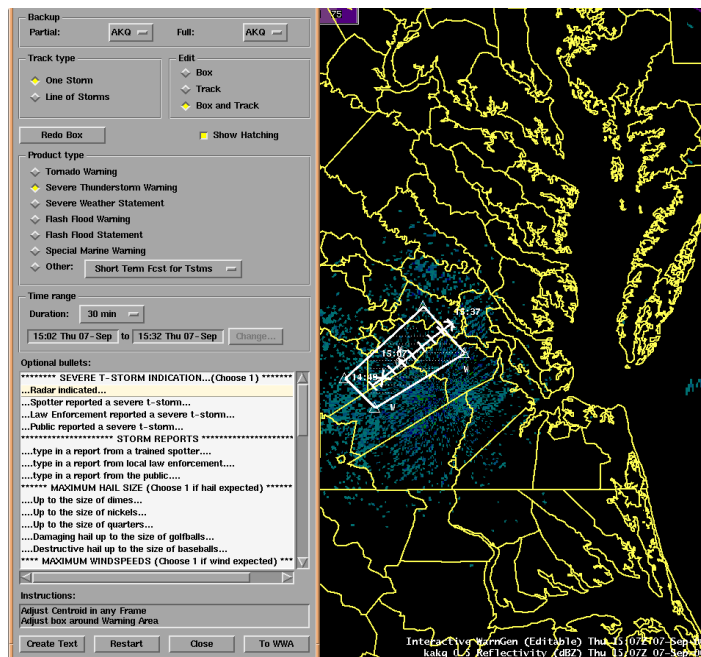


Figure 4 : A graphical display WARNGEN. The Boxed area delineates the counties which will be included in the warning, the tabbed arrow is the center line for the storm motion while the times and the indicate the advancement of the storm every 15 minutes.

the WSR-88D Doppler Radar Principal User Position (PUP). As a result, the County Warning Area (CWA) can be broken up into several geographical segments, allowing forecasters to concentrate on a smaller number of suspect severe storms. In addition, any AWIPS workstation (we have 5) can be used to issue warnings. Previously, warnings were mainly issued from one personal computer via the Warning and Interactive Statement Editor (WISE). The result of this better usage of workstations and

personnel will lead to greater lead times for National Weather Service severe weather warnings.

WARNGEN and other technological advances in computer hardware and software systems are a key part of the nearly completed modernization of the National Weather Service. The results of these advancements are paying off for millions of people whose everyday lives depend on accurate and timely severe weather warnings.

Wakefield's Webpage: www.nws.noaa.gov/er/akq

E-mail: william.sammler@noaa.gov or diane.innes@noaa.gov

Important Phone Numbers:

Severe weather line: 1-800-737-8624 (Severe Weather Only)

Public phone line (for Forecast Information): (757) 899-4200



For an Online **Color** Version of the Spotter's Page Go To:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/akq/>

The document is in PDF format, which can be viewed and printed using Adobe Acrobat Reader⁷. Adobe Acrobat Reader is available free of charge from the Adobe⁷ Web site (www.adobe.com). For advance notice of the electronic newsletter, please send your e-mail address to Bill Sammler. We will then place you on our e-mail notification list. **Trained spotters only!!!**

Spotter Information Update

Please complete the following questionnaire form if you have moved in the past year, or if you believe that you contact information has changed. Please send the completed questionnaires to The National Weather Service, 10009 General Mahone Hwy., Wakefield VA 23888-2742 Attn: Diane Innes. If you have any questions, contact either Bill or Diane.

SPOTTER UPDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME(S) _____ SPOTTER ID _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGN _____
INTERNET ACCESS? YES/NO

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
(Use 9 digit zip code, if known)

STREET ADDRESS _____
(If different than above address)

COUNTY _____ LAT/LON _____

If LAT/LON is unknown, please give a brief description as to where your residence is within the county.
Direction and Distance to US/State and County Routes _____

HOME PHONE NUMBER (____)____-____

MAY WE CALL YOU AT HOME? YES/NO If Yes, When (Anytime/ ____ AM to ____ PM)

Will you be spotting from : Home (Yes/No) Work (Yes/No)

Do you have any weather equipment? Rain Gage (Yes/No) Anemometer (Yes/No)
Thermometer (Yes/No)

Date which you last attended a spotter training session? _____



Con't Letter from Editor

(Continued from page 3)

to report as well as what to include in a report. Please follow these guidelines when relaying a report and always give your Spotter ID. If you cannot remember your ID number simply give your name. We use this information to not only further pinpoint your location but to also give you credit in the "Kudos" section of the newsletter. For HAM radio operators providing reports via our radio links, use your HAM call sign FIRST, then your spotter ID. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Bill Sammler or myself. ***I would also like to remind everyone that the toll free severe weather line is strictly for severe weather reports.*** For general weather information, please use the public line which is (757) 899-4200.

Lastly, for those who have Internet access, check out the severe weather section of our website. This is a good place to brief yourself on the possible severe weather threat for the day.

By Diane Innes

New Spotter ID's

Some of you already know that your spotter ID numbers were changed. Our goal was to help alleviate any confusion when a spotter called in a report. The new ID's are geographically coded, with the first letter referring to the state of residence, the next three letters refer to the county, and the last three digits delineate each spotter household.

Those that attended Spotter training sessions this year have already received their new Spotter ID number. If you did not attend a talk this year, then refer to your mailing label, just above your name, for your new ID. If you have any questions concerning your new ID, please contact either myself or Bill.

By Diane Innes



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
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